Construction of Tourist Bungalows in NE region

2737. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of action-plan taken by Government to attract tourists to the North East Region.

(b) whether there is any plan to build tourists bungalows and to provide other facilities in such historical places like Sibsagar, Jorhat, Khaspur (Kachar Dist.) and also improve facilities in Kaziranga sanctuaries; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider to provide these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) (I) Allocation of 10% of Plan funds towards promotion of tourism to North East region.

(II) Inviting foreign media and travel agents/tour operators on a fam trip to North Eastern Region.

(III) Up-grading the GOITO at Guwahati to the level of Regional Director for better co-ordination for the North Eastern States.

(IV) Additional Central Financial assistance for use of Information Technology in the field of Tourism in the NE region.

(b) Central Financial assistance was provided to build way side amenities at Jorhat, way side amenities and for upgrading existing tourist lodge at Sibsagar, to build a Yatri Niwas at Khaspur (Cachar Dist.) and for upgrading existing tourist lodge and children's outdoor recreational facilities at Kaziranga.

(c) Does not arise.

Decline in Tourist Inflow

2738. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether India losses out in race to lure tourists in the new year;

(b) the percentage of decline in tourists in comparison to last two years; and

(c) the special measures proposed to attract foreign tourist ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There has been a positive growth of 5.5 per cent in tourist arrivals in January 2000 as compared to January 1999.

(b) There is a positive growth of 4.1 per cent and 5.7 per cent in tourist arrivals during first three months of the year 2000 and 1999 as compared to the same period of corresponding previous years.

(c) Various measures proposed to attract foreign tourists include development and improvement of tourist infrastructure facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the overseas market and use of information technology. Some of the specific measures proposed include discounts by Air India through 'Super Summer Saver Scheme', discounts offered by heritage hotels during Millennium year, introduction of A/C Taxis by Delhi Government in the capital, Millennium Trains, Millennium golf and Polo Tournaments and installation of Touch Screen Information Kiosks.

Proposed Investment in Tourism Sector

†2739. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount required to be invested in tourism sector in the country according to Government sources;

(b) the main channels through which this amount is to be invested in tourism sector;

(c) whether Government have formulated any phased programme for the investment of said amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) : It is estimated that an amount of about Rs. 48,000 crores is required as an investment for development of tourism infrastructure in the country which would include investment from Government sector partially and mainly from the private sector including foreign investment.

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.